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LORNA from CIGARETTES AND CHOCOLATE by Anthony Minghella

Character's age: 20's

look at that cat!
the two of you
big cat, little cat.
purring, curled up,
it's quite unnerving, ha!
she'll never sit on my lap, will she?
I've got an incapacity to love, Gemma,
that's the
that's the
I think that's the

my ma was wearing one of my dresses
did you know that?
when she killed herself
at least she didn't leave a note
it was a summer dress and it didn't fit

it's very hard to think your way out of
something like that
to be honest

at least she finally managed to do it
she was the Sylvia Plath of South Hampstead,
my ma,
one year in ten
that's where the limp came from
known as the riding accident limp
known as the falling off the horse limp
was in fact the
throwing herself from the high building limp

she, this was when I was eleven,
she booked a room in a five-storey hotel

that was her joke when she told this nasty
little tale
I booked into a five-storey hotel in
Eastbourne,
and she
do you know I think that was the most heart
breaking thing to think that she would have been the most
beautiful woman, her face was so, I can remember before this
happened, or I think I can, but she was so twisted and, her spine
was, well you know that sort of hunch and she had to teach herself
to walk again, and what was so pathetic which is a feature of our
lives, of our deaths, isn't it? of our gestures, our grand gestures, is
that they are so human, and so trite.
She couldn't find a clear space to jump from,
she got this top room
with a balcony, but the angle or something,
there were balconies and ledges and she had to do some sort of
impossible clamber to get into a position where she could hit the
ground and then she couldn't do it, she said she hung by her
hands for
I don't know, she said an hour

and then she let go

I think she was just tired,
and of course she hit everything on the way down
apparently she didn't lose consciousness and this chap came to
her, he was one of the kitchen staff, she fell outside the kitchens,
that was her favourite part of the story
I don't know why
this chap came rushing up
and he asked her her name

and she told him a lie
she'd just jumped from this building, she'd
broken her back, her legs, her arms, her
skull, and she told him a lie
she said her name was Angela Carpenter
which was the name of a girl she'd sat next to at school

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